

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 28th January 1893.

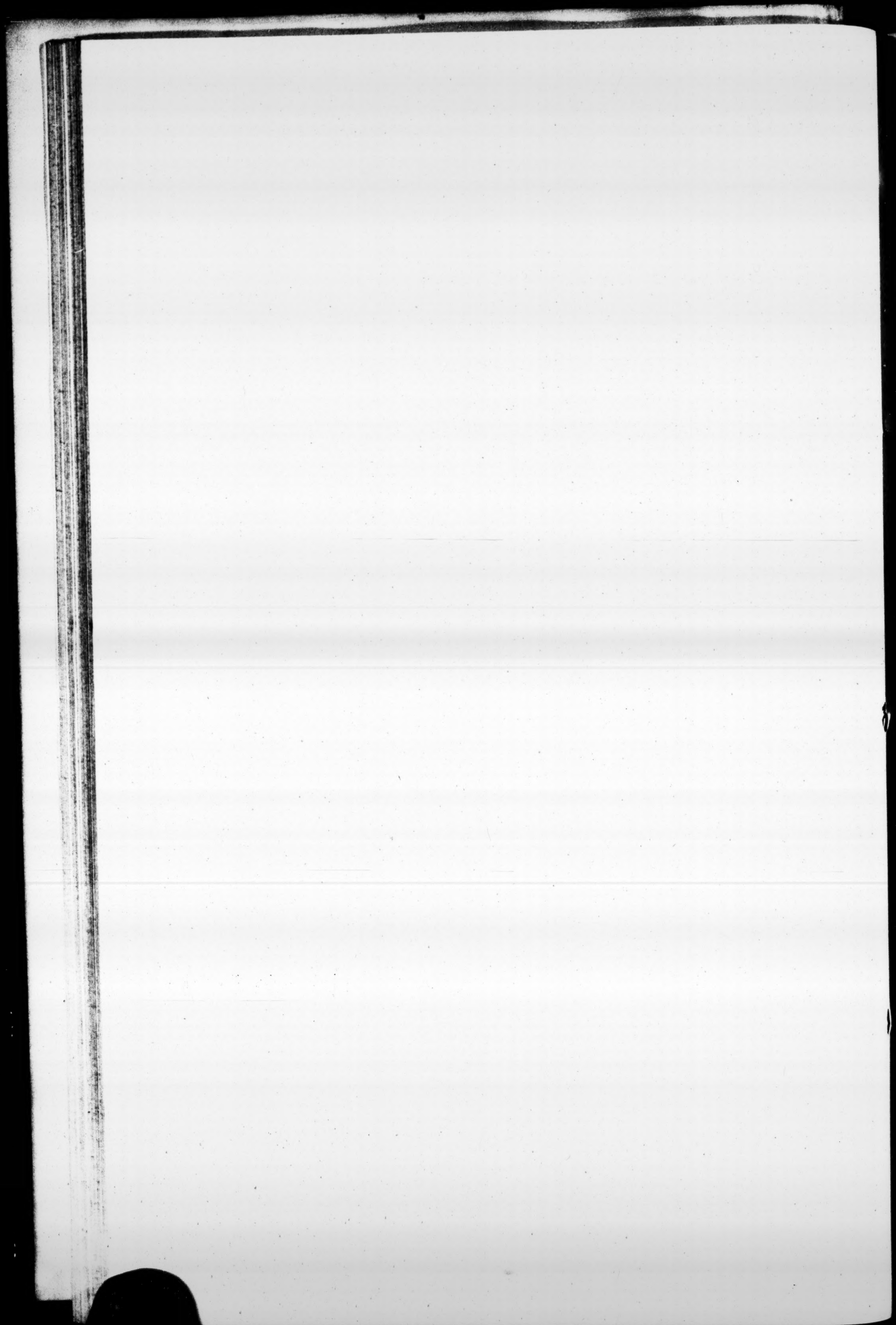
CONTENTS :

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
Nil.		Roads in the Pabna district ...	71
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		(h)—General—	
(a)—Police—		The Karatoya festival ...	ib.
The police at a bathing festival in the Birbhum district ...	63	Closing of a fair in the district of Burdwan ...	ib.
Thefts in the Hooghly district ...	ib.	Acquisition of land in the Murshidabad district ...	ib.
The hackney carriage strike ...	ib.		
(b)—Working of the Courts—		III.—LEGISLATIVE.	
“An unpublished letter” ...	ib.	The Habitual Offenders Bill ...	72
The rumoured telegram on the jury question ...	64	The Habitual Offenders Bill ...	73
A Jury Commission ...	ib.	The spirit of Indian legislation ...	ib.
The Jury affair ...	ib.		
Jurors for the Dacca district ...	65	IV —NATIVE STATES.	
Treatment of certain rent-suits by a Munsif ...	66	Shopping by the Maharani of Gwalior ...	ib.
(c)—Jails—			
Nil.		V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
(d)—Education—		Death from starvation in the Bankura district ...	74
Municipal contribution in Entrance schools ...	ib.		
The Madrassa affair ...	ib.	VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Malpractices in public examinations ...	67	The Lady Dufferin Hospital in Calcutta ...	ib.
Sir Charles Elliott at the Calcutta Medical School ...	ib.	Sir Alexander Miller at the Chaitanya Library ...	ib.
Text-books for the upper primary examination in the Rajshahye Circle ...	ib.	Accident to steamers at Saugor Island ...	ib.
Sir Charles Elliott's educational policy ...	ib.	The steamer accident in the Padma ...	ib.
Text-books in the lower schools in Pabna ...	68		
An objectionable school-book ...	69	URIYA PAPERS.	
Malpractices in connection with examinations ...	70	The latrine-rate in the Balasore Municipality ...	ib.
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		The Kujang raiyats ...	ib.
Municipal complaints from Kishoreganj in the Mymensingh district ...	ib.	A photographer in the Puri temple ...	ib.
Government servants serving under municipalities ...	ib.	Steamer Service in the Orissa Coast Canal ...	75
The Munshiganj Local Board in the Dacca district ...	ib.		
(f)—Questions affecting the land—		ASSAM PAPERS.	
Road cess collection from lakhirajdars ...	ib.	The jail daroga of Sylhet ...	ib.
Zamindari oppression in the district of Mymensingh ...	71	Mr. Prothero, Director of Public Instruction, Assam ...	ib.
The Chittagong settlement ...	ib.		

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.		Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.					
Fortnightly.					
1	"Ahmadí "	...	Tangail, Mymensingh	600	12th January 1893.
2	"Bankura Darpan "	...	Bankura	...	
3	"Grámvási "	...	Ramkristopur, Howrah	1,000	
4	"Kaliyuga "	...	Calcutta	...	
5	"Kasipur Nivási "	...	Kasipur, Barisál	280	
6	"Navamihir "	...	Ghatail, Mymensingh	600	
7	"Sadar-o-Mufassal "	...	Tahirpur, Rajshahi	...	
8	"Ulubaria Darpan "	...	Ulubaria	700	
Tri-monthly.					
9	"Hitakari "	...	Tangail Mymensingh	800	
Weekly.					
10	"Bangavási "	...	Calcutta	20,000	21st January 1893.
11	"Banganivási "	...	Ditto	8,000	20th ditto.
12	"Burdwán Sanjiváni "	...	Burdwan	335	17th ditto.
13	"Cháruvártá "	...	Sherpur, Mymensingh	400	16th ditto.
14	"Dacca Prakash "	...	Dacca	2,200	22nd ditto.
15	"Education Gazette "	...	Hooghly	825	20th ditto.
16	"Hindu Ranjiká "	...	Boalia, Rajshahi	212	19th ditto.
17	"Hitavádi "	...	Calcutta	...	
18	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi "	...	Berhampore	...	21st ditto.
19	"Navayuga "	...	Calcutta	500	
20	"Prakriti "	...	Ditto	...	20th ditto.
21	"Pratikár "	...	Berhampore	609	18th ditto.
22	"Prithivi "	...	Calcutta	...	
23	"Rangpur Dikprakash "	...	Kakinia, Rangpur	...	18th ditto.
24	"Sahachar "	...	Calcutta	800-1,000	
25	"Sahayogi "	...	Barisál	342	21st ditto.
26	"Sakti "	...	Dacca	...	
27	"Samáj-o-Sáhitya "	...	Garibpore, Nadia	1,000	21st ditto.
28	"Samaya "	...	Calcutta	3,000	
29	"Sanjiváni "	...	Ditto	4,000	21st ditto.
30	"Sansodhini "	...	Chittagong	...	
31	"Sáraswat Patra "	...	Dacca	300	23rd ditto.
32	"Som Prakash "	...	Calcutta	600	
33	"Srimanta Sadagar "	...	Ditto	...	20th ditto.
34	"Sudhákár "	...	Ditto	3,100	
35	"Sulabh Samáchar "	...	Ditto	...	
Daily.					
36	"Banga Vidyá Prakashiká "	...	Calcutta	500	24th and 25th January 1893.
37	"Bengal Exchange Gazette "	...	Ditto	...	19th, 20th, 24th and 25th January 1893.
38	"Dainik-o-Samáchár Chandriká "	...	Ditto	1,000	
39	"Samvád Prabhákár "	...	Ditto	1,500	22nd and 24th to 26th January 1893.
40	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya "	...	Ditto	300	20th, 21st, 24th and 25th ditto.
41	"Sulabh Dainik "	...	Ditto	...	20th, 21st and 23rd to 26th January 1893.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
42	"Dacca Gazette "	...	Dacca	...	20th, 21st and 24th to 26th Jan. 1893.
HINDI.					
Monthly.					
43	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Samáchár Patrika. "	...	Darjeeling	50	
44	"Kshatriya Patriká "	...	Patna	250	
Weekly.					
45	"Aryávarta "	...	Dinapore	750	
46	"Bihar Bandhu "	...	Bankipore	500	
47	"Bhárat Mitra "	...	Calcutta	1,200	
48	"Champaran Chandrika "	...	Bettiah	350	
49	"Desí Vyápári "	...	Calcutta	...	
50	"Hindí Bangavási "	...	Ditto	...	
51	"Sár Sudhánidhi "	...	Ditto	500	
52	"Uchit Baktá "	...	Ditto	4,500	

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Date of papers received and examined for the week.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
53	" Akhbar-i-Al Punch "	Bankipore ... ..	.....	16th January 1893.
54	" Anis "	Patna ... ..	.....	
55	" Calcutta Punch "	Calcutta ... ..	.....	
56	" Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide "	Ditto	340	19th ditto.
57	" General and Gauhariasfi "	Ditto ... ..	.....	
58	" Mehre Monawar "	Muzaffarpur ... ..	.....	
59	" Raisul-Akhbari-Murshidabad "	Murhidabad	150	
60	" Setare Hind "	Arrah ... ..	.....	
61	" Shokh "	Monghyr ... ..	.....	
URIYA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
62	" Asha "	Cuttack	165	For the month of Kartik 1299 B.S.
63	" Echo "	Ditto ... ..	.....	
64	" Pradip "	Ditto ... ..	.....	
65	" Samyabadi "	Ditto ... ..	.....	
66	" Taraka and Subhavartá "	Ditto ... ..	.....	
67	" Utkalprabhá "	Baripada ... ..	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
68	" Dipaka "	Cuttack ... ..	.....	
69	" Samvad Váhika "	Balasore	200	22nd and 29th December 1892.
70	" Uriya and Navasamvád "	Ditto	420	21st and 28th ditto.
71	" Utkal Dípiká "	Cuttack	420	24th and 31st ditto.
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
72	" Paridarshak "	Sylhet	480	12th January 1893.
73	" Silchar "	Silchar	500	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
74	" Srihatta Mihir "	Sylhet	332	



II—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

A correspondent of the *Bangavási*, of the 21st January, writing from Ilambazar-Kalikapur, in the Birbhum district, says that the police prohibited the pilgrims who assembled at the fair, which is held annually in Kendubilwa in that district in honour of the memory of the poet Jayadeva, from bathing at the Kadamkhandi ghat on the Ajai river on the occasion of the *Uttarayan Sankranti*. And the editor requests Government to make an enquiry, especially as the belief is somehow gaining ground that the authorities are showing an increasing desire to interfere with the religious rites and ceremonies of the people.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 21st, 1892.

2. The same paper has learnt that thefts have become rife in Bhadreswar, in the Hooghly district. The number of constables in the village is quite inadequate to the population.

BANGAVASI.

3. Referring to the hackney carriage strike in Calcutta, the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 25th January, says that, owing to oppression by the police and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the rigorous provisions of the new Hackney Carriage Act, the hackney carriage owners have really many grievances to complain of. The immediate cause of the strike was the heavy punishments lately inflicted by Mr. Marsden on the hackney carriage drivers who were brought up before him. The writer will be sorry if the grievances of the hackney carriage owners are not removed, and any attempt is made to put an end to the strike with a high hand.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 25th, 1893.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

4. The *Sahachar*, of the 18th January, has the following:—Judged by the law and the rules of common courtesy, the Lieutenant-Governor must be said to have exceeded his powers in writing his letter on the Shambazar riot case. Because the result of the trial was not such as he would have liked, he has in that letter called the jurors who tried the case neglectful of their duty and wanting in judgment. But if comments of this nature had been made by a suitor who had lost his case, he would have made himself liable to prosecution for contempt of court. In all public prosecutions Government is a party, and is therefore hardly justified in finding fault with a trial simply because it does not turn out as it would like it to do. A member of the Ministry in England, expressing himself in the way Sir Charles Elliott has done, would have to resign office within a week, but nothing of that kind has to be done in this country. If Sir Barnes Peacock had been Chief Justice now, he would probably have treated the Lieutenant-Governor to some very hard words. Sir Charles having himself shown disrespect to a Court simply because that Court did not decide a case as he would have liked to see it decided, can His Honour take one of his ordinary subjects to task if he abuses a Court for giving a decision adverse to him? But Sir Charles has not only rebuked the jury in the Shambazar case, he has also, if language has any meaning, abused Mr. Rampini in the foulest manner possible. He says:—"The law is such that an experienced Judge, who once officiated as a Judge of the High Court, had to agree with the jury against his own conviction and conscience, and did not consider himself competent to refer the case to the High Court because the jury was unanimous." This means that the Judge was, in consequence of a defect in the law, obliged to do a wrong thing. In Sir Charles's opinion the law, the jury and the Sessions Judge were more or less to blame in the Shambazar affair, while the High Court is always to blame because it refuses to interfere where jurors return unanimous verdicts. The Lieutenant-Governor has made these remarks simply because some people are at large instead of being in jail. Suppose these men were really guilty, what harm has been caused to Government and to society in general by their acquittal? Cases of this nature happen in all countries. Of those who figure as *Assamis* in the courts of this country, none but old thieves break the law again and again. And if the object of inflicting

SAHACHAR,
Jan. 18th, 1893.

"An unpublished letter."

punishments on offenders is to reform their character, that object is sufficiently gained simply by their appearing in the courts in the character of accused persons. The cry "Why have they not been sent to jail" is therefore both unnatural and inopportune. It appears from the Lieutenant-Governor's letter on the Shambazar case that Mr. Rampini wrote a confidential letter to Government on the subject. But why has not that letter been published? The writer has learnt that the publication of that letter would have made it impossible for the Lieutenant-Governor to set up a defence for himself. Is it true that in that letter Mr. Rampini said that the police had fabricated evidence, and that the jury were not wrong in rejecting that evidence? The whole complexion of the jury affair will be changed if this be true. The writer and all those who were present in Court during the trial of the Shambazar case, know well that no intelligent native gentleman could place any reliance on the witnesses whom the police brought forward on the occasion. Sir Charles has drawn his conclusion merely from official records; but it transpired during the trial that the real offenders ran away, and that the police, smarting under its defeat at the hand of the rioters, beat anybody on whom it could lay its hands, and made indiscriminate arrests. A Brahmin sweetmeat-maker had a beard, and the police taking him for a Mussulman beat him severely, and the man had to shew his sacred thread before he was let off. If this man had been arrested, sent to the Medical College and thence brought to Court, Sir Charles would have considered him guilty. The trouble arose out of the execution of a decree obtained by a Hindu, and the case was tried by a Hindu jury, and yet the prisoners were acquitted. A little consideration ought to show Sir Charles that the jury did not go wrong.

SAHACHAR,
Jan. 18th, 1893.

5. The same paper says that, according to the *Indian Daily News* newspaper, it is nearly a week that the Government of India has received the Secretary of State's telegram on the subject of the jury notification. That a telegram has been received is certain, for the *Pioneer* has written two columns abusing the Secretary of State; the *Englishman* is significantly silent.

6. The same paper has the following:—

A Jury Commission.

It is proposed to appoint a Commission to consider the jury question. But Lord Dufferin's Public Service Commission has shaken people's faith in Commissions. If, however, a Commission consisting of members from all classes of people, viz., officials, non-officials, natives and Europeans, is appointed, it may help Government to recede with a good grace, if it can do nothing more. Nobody wishes that Government should suffer any loss of prestige in this matter, for in the prestige of Government lies the prestige of the country, and the people of India do not like the idea of France and Russia taunting Government for its defeat over the jury question. It is rumoured that if the decision of the Ministry at home be adverse to the Government of India, all the members of His Excellency's Council, with the exception of Sir Alexander Miller, will resign. The writer does not believe this rumour, for he cannot think that the Viceroy will prove himself so worthless a man as to act in the manner suggested. And it will be an act of disloyalty on his part to do so on the present occasion. His Excellency's threat that he would resign if Tikendrajit were not hanged did not add to his reputation. Lord Lansdowne knows of course that he has not been able to earn the reputation of being a good ruler, and the country will not suffer if he and Sir Philip Hutchins resign. But then resignation will not look well and might create a bad precedent, and that is all. The writer refuses to believe the rumour. There is time yet, and Lord Lansdowne should act in accordance with the spirit of the times.

BANGANIVASI,
Jan. 20th 1893.

The jury affair.

7. The *Banganivasi*, of the 20th January, writes as follows:—

Sir Charles Elliott will prove himself a very narrow-minded man if, in consequence of the Secretary of State's disapproval of his jury order, he feels insulted and considers it necessary to resign. Lord Northbrook refused to give his assent to Sir George Campbell's pet Municipal Bill; but Sir George did not, for that reason, resign. If anybody ought to resign in connection with the jury question, it is Sir Philip Hutchins, and not Sir Charles Elliott. The reign of *zubburdustism*, of which the jury notification is an expression, has been

inaugurated by Sir Philip, and it was Sir Philip who prevented the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor from withdrawing the jury notification when Maharaja Jatindro Mohan Tagore sought its withdrawal. So, if anybody has indelibly tarnished his name in this jury affair, it is Sir Philip that has done this. And it is Sir Philip for whom the present is a fit opportunity for showing a proper sense of self-respect.

Sir Charles Elliott's resignation at such a time would be a loss to the Bengalis who can ill spare him now. He has, whether through fault of judgment on his own part, or in consequence of bad advice given him by his counsellors, done some wrong acts since his accession to the Bengal musnud. He has during the first two years of his reign followed a policy of *zubberdustism*. And it is only just now that his eyes have been opened to what he has been doing, and he sees his mistake. He may be therefore now expected to follow a policy which will lead to a better government of the country. Rulers who begin badly generally end well and retire with a halo of glory round their names. Sir Charles Elliott's rigorous rule has apparently come to an end, and the better and more glorious part of his administration is about to commence. There is no denying that Sir Charles has hitherto done as he has been advised by his counsellors. Only in July last his Honour, in notifying Sir John Edgar's retirement from the service, said that the prestige and good name of the Bengal Government was maintained during the first year of his administration by his following the advice of Sir John. It is not yet known how far His Honour was influenced by his new Secretary, Mr. Cotton, during the second year of his administration. If the unjustifiable acts done by Sir Charles last year were all done at the suggestion of Mr. Cotton, and if the jury notification, too, had its origin in Mr. Cotton's brain, then it is clear that Mr. Cotton has latterly undergone a wonderful metamorphosis. But if Sir Charles Elliott issued the jury notification in disregard of Mr. Cotton's advice, then Mr. Cotton, known as he is to be a friend of the natives, ought to have resigned, or at least made his views known to the public. But it is not probable that Sir Charles is singly responsible for the notification, and Mr. Cotton had no hand in it. It was in November last that Sir Charles told the Hazaribagh people that he was almost a perfect stranger to Bengal, and had therefore many things to learn. How can it be then believed that within one month of this avowal he acquired such a knowledge of the province as warranted his taking so important a step in disregard of the advice of his Chief Secretary? What Sir Charles has said about his having been guided by Sir John Edgar makes people suspect that his Secretaries and counsellors are guiding him still, and their suspicion is confirmed by that Mymensingh resolution with Mr. Cotton's signature appended to it.

But whether Sir Charles is still being guided by his Secretaries or not, the statements made by him the other day bear the stamp of independent thought. And if he really means to act in future on his own independent judgment, the people must expect good government from him, and will not be able to spare his services at this stage of affairs. In all the measures adopted during the last two years, Sir Charles has consulted the interests of the Anglo-Indian community alone. All the reforms introduced by His Honour have had for their object the benefit of that community, a much heavier taxing of the Indian people, the making the laws of the land more intricate, and the making of the attainment of justice more and more difficult. It is to be hoped, however, that henceforward His Honour will rule for the welfare of the Indian people, for the satisfaction of his own conscience, and for pleasing God.

8. The *Sanjivani*, of the 21st January, says that, according to a Dacca Jurors for the Dacca district. correspondent of the *Indian Daily News*, about thirty jurors have been chosen for the district from among junior pleaders of four or five years' standing, while not a single juror has been chosen from among the senior pleaders who number about forty or fifty. A correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reported some time ago from Madaripur that Government did not appoint a single mukhtar or pleader to the Faridpur District Board. These omissions are not certainly due to oversight, and the public is therefore daily becoming more and more convinced of Sir Charles Elliott's incompetency for the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 21st, 1893.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Jan. 22nd, 1893.

9. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 22nd January, says that it is not the intention of the law which requires raiyats before filing their written statements in suits for arrears of rent to deposit the amount admitted by them to be due from them to zamindars that they should purposely mention nominal sums and deposit such sums in court before filing their written statements. But a Munsif, whom the writer will not name, is in the habit of taking written statements from raiyats who mention only nominal sums as due from them, and even fail to deposit such sums in court. Even in cases in which the rent is fixed and the raiyat has not paid it, he deceives the Munsif by producing false money-order receipts, but is not punished, although the deception is repeatedly proved in court. Nay, he even grants the prayer of such raiyat for postponing his case. The zamindar gets a decree at last, but has to wait a whole year before he can execute it. And in the meantime his zamindari is sold by auction for non-payment of revenue or road cess. It is hoped that the Munsif will be more careful in future.

(d) — Education.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 19th, 1893.

10. The *Hitavadi*, of the 19th January, says that the Lieutenant-Governor's statement in the course of his Resolution on the working of the municipalities, that by giving aid to entrance schools, the municipalities are spending for the benefit for the few the money contributed by many, is absolutely without any foundation. Municipal rates are imposed not per head of population, but on incomes of properties above a certain value. Thus people, the annual income of whose property is less than Rs. 6, are exempted from all municipal taxation. In 1890-91, out of 26 lakhs of men who constituted the municipal population of this country, only $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs paid municipal rates. This means that only three annas of the inhabitants of municipalities pay any tax, and the remaining 13 annas do not. But all who live within municipalities nevertheless equally enjoy the benefits of municipal administration. As the municipal rates are assessed on the incomes of properties, the larger a man's income the heavier his burden of municipal taxation. And if it had been proper to apportion the benefits which it is in the power of the municipalities to confer according to the amount of rates paid, then the municipalities would have been justified in making a larger provision for the education of rich men's sons than they now do, or in setting apart a certain sum only for their education. But, in point of fact, not to speak of getting any benefit from the contributions made to the municipal revenue by poor men, rich men do not desire to get even the full benefit of the money contributions they themselves make; for the schools subsidised by the municipalities are open to all classes of people, rich and poor. Municipal aid to schools has a tendency to lower the fee charged by those schools, and by that means to increase the number of poor children on their rolls. The text-books of two or three of the lowest classes in the entrance schools may be made to correspond to a primary course of instruction, and the antagonism between primary education and education received in the entrance schools may be thereby removed. And if this is done, primary education will spread with the increase of the number of entrance schools. But more money requires to be spent on education than it is in the power of the municipalities to spend, and Government ought to help them in the matter. But instead of increasing its education grant, Government is making it smaller day after day, and thinks even of stopping it altogether. Abolition of jury trial will certainly be dangerous, but the threatened discontinuance of the education grant will be still more so.

HITAVADI.

11. The same paper has read with surprise the Lieutenant-Governor's Resolution on the Madrassa College affair. The meetings of the Debating Club have done harm to nobody, and now that Government has closed the Club for a time, the question to be asked is, is it the intention of Government to take away the small measure of freedom which debating clubs possess? The Madrassa Debating Club said nothing against Government, nor did it hold its meeting in a Government building. Its proceedings were marked by no incident of a nature which was

likely to cause a breach of the peace. The speeches delivered at its meeting contained no reflections on the Mussulman religion. If there was a breach of the rules of the Club in consequence of the delivery of a religious discourse at its meeting, it was for the members of the Club to consider the matter. If the Club had been founded or maintained by Government, then and only then Government would have been justified in interfering with it. As it is, it is not clear why Government has interfered in this matter. One never dreamt that Government would interfere in such petty matters.

12. The *Pratikar*, of the 20th January, says that the Viceroy has acted with perfect wisdom in the matter of students who have recourse to malpractices in public examinations.

PRATIKAR,
Jan. 20th, 1893.

13. The *Bangavasi*, of the 21st January, says that there are two things to be noticed in Sir Charles Elliott's late speech at the distribution of prizes at the Calcutta Medical School. His Honour said that, considering the large number of medicinal drugs and herbs to be found in this country, it was a shame that medicines had to be imported from England and other European countries, and that, in order to obviate this necessity of importing medicines from foreign countries, it was necessary that the study of indigenous drugs and herbs should be taken in hand. And in saying this His Honour was perfectly right. But speaking on the subject of giving medical aid to zanana ladies, His Honour said that it was due solely to superstition that the people of this country did not send their wives and daughters to hospital for treatment, and hoped that the people would know better by and by. But in saying this Sir Charles Elliott made a sad mistake, for so long as the natives entertain for the sex the profound respect which they do now, they will not, it is certain, send their wives and daughters to be treated in public hospitals.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 21st, 1893.

14. The same paper says that, when officiating for Mr. Bellett, Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi Circle, Babu Chandra Mohan Majumdar fixed the following books in Bengali literature for the upper primary examination in that circle in 1893:—

BANGAVASI.

Jñānsopān, Part II, or *Chārubōdh*, Part II,

and

Kabitāmālā, Part II, or *Kabitāpāth*, Part II.

But on his return from leave Mr. Bellett expunged *Jñānsopān* and *Kabitāpāth* from the list. Considering that the examination will take place before the Durga Puja holidays, it is for the educational authorities to say whether Mr. Bellett has acted rightly in correcting the list so late. Many boys, too, have already bought the expunged books, and what are they to do now?

15. The *Sanjivani*, of the 21st January, says that for sometime Government has been withdrawing itself from high education on the plea that many private schools and colleges have of late come into existence, and that public money should be spent on mass education and not on the high education of the few. And it seems Government has now hit upon a way of freeing itself from the burden of mass education too. Sir Charles Elliott has written to all Divisional Commissioners requesting them to call upon the municipalities to set apart 3·2 per cent. of their income annually for primary education. It is therefore clear that Government wants to divide the entire burden of mass education between the municipalities and the District Boards, thus shaking off the whole of its own responsibility to the people in the matter of their education. The adoption of such a policy in England would have at once led to a subversion of the Government. But whatever is done by the rulers of a subject country is above criticism.

SANJIVANI
Jan. 21st, 1893.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 21st, 1893.

16. The same paper says that to the list of text-books sent to the lower schools by the Director of Public Instruction on the 8th July 1891, was prefixed the following note:—

Text-books in the lower schools in Pabna. “Managers of schools will be at liberty to choose out of the list any books that they may prefer for use in the various classes of their schools, subject only to the following condition:—

- (a) The text-books prescribed by this office for the Middle Scholarship Examinations of 1892 and 1893 must be read in the first classes of the middle schools for those years respectively.
- (b) The separate orders prescribing special text-books in sanitary teaching for the different scholarship examinations are still in force.

With these exceptions, the selection of text-books from the authorised list, in every subject of every class, is henceforward left to the *unrestricted choice* of school managers.”

But how this note has been respected by the subordinate inspecting officers of the Education Department will appear from what follows. In November last Babu Chandra Mohan Majundar, Officiating Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi Circle, appointed the following subjects and text-books for the upper primary examination:—

Bengali:—*Jñānsopān*, Part II, or *Chārubōdh*, Part II,

and

Kabitāpāth, Part II, or *Kabitāmālā*, Part II.

Arithmetic*:—Up to the rule of three and simple fraction.

Subhankari†:—*Māsmāhinā*, *Batsarmahinā*, *Kāthākālī Bighākālī*, *Hath-o-poot-kālī*, *Sonakasā*, *Mankasā*, and *Jamābandi*.

In arithmetic and *Subhankari*, in which subjects have been specified, it was invidious to name certain authors to the exclusion of others.

Soon after the publication of the above list, the following circular was issued:—

No. 292.

Dated the 20th December 1892.

SIR,

IN obedience to the Circular No. 317 of the 15th December 1892, issued by the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Pabna, I have the honour to inform you that, in the third class of middle schools, the upper primary course is to be substituted for the Bengali subjects named in the list of middle schools.

I have, &c.,

(Sd.) BRAJENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE,

Sub-Inspector of Schools, Dulai Circle.

It is clear that the object of this circular was to mutilate the right of “unrestricted choice” left to the managers of middle schools in the matter of selecting books for the various classes of their schools below the first. Besides, the issue of this circular caused much annoyance, as the boys of the third class in many middle schools had already purchased, according to the direction of the school authorities, other text-books than those referred to in the

* From Prasanna Kumar Sarbadhicary's, P. Ghosh's, Saradaprasad Sarkar's, Mahendranath Bhattacharyya's, Dwarkanath Ganguli's, or Brajendra Kumar Guha's Arithmetic.

† From *Ganit Prakas*, Part III, by Ambica Charan Bose, or from *Subhankari Hisab* by Srinath De, or from *Subhankari Sikshā* by Matilal Datta, or from *Subhankari* by P. Ghosh.

above circular. But the matter did not end here. Sometime after, another circular was issued, which runs as follows:—

No. 313.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that for the sake of uniformity the following books will be selected for the third class of your school as desired by the Deputy Inspector of Schools:—

Prose.—Charubodh, Part II.
Poetry.—Kabitapatha, Part II.
Grammar.—Shishuprabesh Vyakaran.
Geography.—Bhugalparichaya.
Science.—Shankshipta Padarthadarsan.

I have, &c.,

(Sd.) BRAJENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE,

Sub-Inspector of Schools, Dulai Circle.

The school authorities, for fear of being rebuked by the Deputy Inspector of Schools, made their students get the above text-books in supersession of any other text-books on the same subjects that they may have already purchased. And to crown all, Mr. Bellett, on his return from leave, directed *Kabitápáth, Part II*, to be expunged from the list issued by Babu Chandra Mohan Majumdar. How often then are boys to change their text-books in the course of one session?

But the writer must refer to yet another circular, which is as follows:—

No. 366.

Dated the 10th January 1893.

Sir,—In obedience to the circular No. 33, dated the 6th January 1893, issued by the Inspector of Schools, Rajshahai Circle, I have the honour to inform you that the Shubhankaris by P. Ghosh and Matti Lal Datta are removed from the list of text-books prescribed for the forthcoming Upper P. Examination.

I have &c.,

(Sd.) BRAJENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH,

Sub-Inspector of Schools, Dulai Circle.

Now, in order to compel managers of schools to introduce the upper primary course in the third class of middle schools, pressure is being brought to bear upon them for sending up their third class boys to the Primary Examination. But how the third class boys of middle schools can be sent up to the Upper Primary Examination, the writer is unable to understand, seeing that under a circular of the Inspector of Schools, only 10 propositions of the First Book of Euclid are to be taught in the third class of middle schools, while 26 propositions are required for the Upper Primary Examination.

17. The *Prakriti*, of the 21st January, quotes the following passages from a catechism of Indian history written by Babu Abala Kanta Sen:—

An objectionable school-book.

1. India, which is the model of the whole world, which has jewels within its bowels, whose soil is exceedingly fertile, has, in consequence of subjection to foreign rule, fallen into an extremely miserable condition (page 227.)
2. India is under a despotic Government.
3. Englishmen can almost be said to have no sympathy or kindness for the people of India. And unless these faults in the character of Englishmen disappear, the people of India will, like the light of a lamp without oil, pass quietly out of existence.

PRAKRITI,
 Jan. 21st, 1893.

4. (Under English rule) the country is gradually becoming poorer and the people are being overburdened with taxation and stricken by famine and disease. The money and the produce of the country are being taken away to foreign countries, and if this continues some time longer India will be reduced to a desert.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 24th, 1893.

18. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 24th January, says that the Lieutenant-Governor has recently ordered that persons filing forged certificates for the purpose of gaining admission to an examination, &c., will be considered disqualified for entering the service of Government, or of any municipal or local body. But who is to judge whether a person charged with the above offence is really guilty of it or not, or whether the offence of which he is guilty is of a trifling or a serious nature? And what if the officials of Government commit an error in judging his case? Again, supposing a young man once commits an offence, is it proper to prevent him for that reason from earning his livelihood for ever? Is this the way in which an objectionable practice should be put down? This order also shows that Sir Charles is a rash and inconsiderate ruler.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

CHARUVARTA,
Jan. 16th, 1893.

19. A correspondent of the *Charuvarta*, of the 16th January, says that the Kishoreganj Municipality in the Mymensingh district is in a most deplorable condition, owing to the remissness and apathy of its Commissioners. The tracts north of Ukilpara, and the place called Naguagram, lie under water during the whole of the rainy season, and the people suffer from want of good drinking water in the dry season. There will be, in fact, severe scarcity of water in a month or two unless the municipality excavates tanks in suitable quarters before the commencement of the hot season. Want of public privies is also severely felt.

PRAKRITI,
Jan. 21st, 1893.

20. The *Prakriti*, of the 21st January, has the following:—
Some time ago an Assistant Surgeon, whose Government servants serving services were lent to a municipality by Government, was fined by the Municipal Commissioners for some offence. But when this was brought to the notice of Government, it asked the Commissioners to remit the fine on the ground that they had no power to fine an officer lent to them by itself. The Commissioners stated in reply that the section of the municipal law empowering them to fine the officers serving under them made no exception in favour of officers lent by Government. But Government has held that the Commissioners were wrong in taking the section in that sense. The writer is really pained to see this attempt of Government to curtail the powers of municipalities.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Jan. 23rd, 1893.

21. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 23rd January, asks the Munshiganj Local Board, in the Dacca district, who is to be held responsible for the misappropriation by the people of the neighbourhood of the planks, &c., which constituted the Rampal bridge over the Tangibari-Amtali road, and for the digging of water-courses at various points across that road?

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

PRATIKAR,
Jan. 20th, 1893.

22. The *Pratihar*, of the 20th January, says that it has repeatedly drawn attention to the hardship which is caused to lakhirajdars by the present method of collecting the road cess. It very often happens that a lakhiraj tenure bearing one number in the Collectorate register, but belonging to several co-sharers, is sold for the default of a single co-sharer. In other cases, again, a number of mauzas originally belonging to one proprietor, and recorded under one number in the register, have since passed into different hands, and there being no provision in the law for entering them separately in the Collectorate books, all of them are made responsible for road cess for default made in respect of one. Under these circumstances it has become quite impossible for lakhirajdars to preserve their rights.

23. The *Prakriti*, of the 21st January, says that, in the district of Mymensingh, the raiyats have to pay three pice, and in some places one anna per rupee as road and public works cess, though the legal rate is only two pice per rupee. Interest at the rate of three rupees and two annas per cent. a month and compound interest at the same rate is charged on arrear rent. From two to eight annas per rupee is charged as collection expense in contravention of the provisions of section 74 of the Tenancy Act. Enforcement of the system of giving cheque dakhilas can alone check these practices of the Mymensingh zamindars.

PRAKRITI,
Jan. 21st, 1892.

24. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 25th January, says that, while the Lieutenant-Governor is expressing satisfaction at the absence of objections against the settlement work which is going on in Chittagong, it is understood that the Magistrate omitted from the addresses presented to His Honour all those portions which contained complaints against the settlement. This action on the part of the Magistrate has been very reprehensible, and Sir Charles Elliott ought to enquire into the matter.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 25th, 1893.

(g)—*Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.*

25. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 22nd January, says that the roads at Chatmohar, in the district of Pabna, are in need of repair. Some time ago the District Board sanctioned a sum of money for the repair of the Pabna-Chatmohar road, but nothing has yet been done in the matter. The road from the police station to the new bazar has also been left in an unfinished condition.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Jan. 23rd, 1893.

(h)—*General.*

26. The *Sadar-o-Mufassal*, of the 12th January, says that the *Sulabh Dainik* did not describe the truth when it stated in its issue of the 6th January last that the pilgrims at the Karatoya were put to the greatest possible inconvenience by the burning down of their sheds by the police just after 9 o'clock on the morning of the festival. Indeed, the police arrangement at the festival was all that could be desired, and as for the burning down of the sheds, there was no other means of preventing the spread of cholera, which showed signs of development.

SADAR-O-MUFASSAL,
Jan. 12th, 1893.

27. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 17th January, has the following:—
Closing of a fair in the district of Burdwan. It is now proposed to prohibit, on sanitary grounds, the religious fairs which used to be held in different places in the district of Burdwan. The Civil Surgeon of Burdwan has sent a report to the Magistrate, saying that gatherings of people at these fairs are likely to cause sickness. And if he says that he will not be responsible for the health of the district if this cause of sickness is not removed, the Magistrate will be obliged to prohibit the fairs. A religious fair has for a long time been held at Mahata. But this year the Magistrate, acting on the report of the Civil Surgeon, has ordered the police to prohibit the gathering and on receiving a strong representation from the zamindar of Mahata has made an exception in favour of the people of that place, who alone will be permitted to come to the fair. Thus the people of the surrounding villages, who used to visit the fair and enjoy themselves there for several days in the year, will be greatly disappointed. It is a small gathering, and the chance of sickness breaking out there is small. This being the case, it is for the authorities to consider how far it has been proper for them to pass an order prohibiting the fair. Interference in such small gatherings will lead the people gradually to close all religious gatherings. And then there will be great discontent in the country and ignorant people will think that Government contemplates interfering with their religion.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Jan. 17th, 1893.

28. The *Pratikar*, of the 20th January says, that keen-eyed as he is, Sir Charles Elliott has not failed to see the great loss that Government has to suffer every year in consequence of the encroachment of the river Bhagirathi, in the Murshidabad district, on the embankments on its banks. New

PRATIKAR,
Jan. 20th, 1893.

land has to be acquired every year for repairing the breaches in the embankments. This year, however, lands have been acquired for the purpose only for three years and at only three years' purchase. The Government will no doubt benefit by this sort of transaction, but the owners of lands must suffer loss.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SAHACHAR
Jan. 18th, 1893.

29. The *Sahachar*, of the 18th January, has the following on the Habitual Offenders Bill:—

The Habitual Offenders Bill.

In this country there are professional budmashes only in Calcutta and other large towns. The police know them, but for some reason or other cannot bring them to justice. And as these budmashes are men of means, the provisions of the livelihood section of the Criminal Procedure Code are not applicable to them. In the villages the chaukidars are sufficient for the purpose of putting down crime and misdemeanor. Sir Philip Hutchins knows this, and yet he has brought forward a Bill for dealing with habitual offenders more effectually than is possible under the existing law. The Bill proposes to re-enact the section in the Criminal Procedure Code which was removed at the suggestion of Sir Ashley Eden. He has framed the law on the model of an English statute. He thinks that as in England a man who is proved a thief has to live under police surveillance, a similar law should be enacted here also. But he forgets that as in comparison with English prostitutes Indian prostitutes are respectable women, so in comparison with English thieves, Indian thieves are respectable men. Thieves in this country are married men and possess houses of their own. They do not behave like beasts in grogshops. They may steal at night, but so far as domestic and social life is concerned, they may be regarded as respectable citizens. Here most of those who steal do so in sheer necessity, and so, as soon as opportunity presents itself, they mend their ways. Sir Philip Hutchins proposes to subject to police surveillance for seven years all those who have been once convicted of theft in a Criminal Court, constituted as such a Court is at the present day. Whenever such persons will have occasion to move from one village to another lying within the jurisdiction of another thana, they will be required to inform the chief police officer of the district of their movement, and on their failing to do that, they will be sentenced to imprisonment which may extend to one year. Now, suppose a man residing at Midnapore hears one night that his son-in-law or daughter living at Ulubaria in the district of Hooghly is seriously ill, and has therefore to start for Ulubaria. The District Superintendent of Hooghly lives at a distance of 100 miles, and so, if the man tries to obey the law, he may not reach Ulubaria in time to see his dying relative, and if he runs to Ulubaria in his anxiety to see his relative without waiting to make full compliance with the law, he will have to go to jail. It is true that if he shows good cause of his absence from home, he will not be imprisoned. But where is he to show cause and who is to hear him? And where will he get witnesses to corroborate him, and where is he to get the money that he must require in order to get himself heard? Sir Philip has grown old in this country and knows how large a Bengal district is. He also knows that the state of communications between different parts of the country is not so good as in England, and that the head-quarters of the principal police officers are not so near each other as they are in England, and yet he proposes to enact a measure which is likely to affect the people so injuriously. The legislators in this country do not know the real condition of the people, and their attempt to do good to them therefore often results in their mischief. Sir Philip's idea is that the criminal law of India requires to be made more stringent than it already is. One is at a loss to understand why the present cry for more punishment has been raised. Has infliction of heavier punishments been necessitated by political considerations or in consequence of any change in the character of the people? If the Russians had been found encamped on the frontier of India and Indians had been found going over to them in numbers, then this Government policy of making the criminal administration so rigorous would have been intelligible. But as it is, the country is in the enjoyment of profound peace, the people are loyal and inoffensive, and do not even dream of subverting the Maharani's rule. Dacoits of the old type have disappeared and gang dacoity has become rare.

So long as there were regular gangs of thieves and dacoits in the country, so long the people helped the Thuggee Commissioners by every means in their power, and did not grudge them the extraordinary powers which they exercised. But why enact these hard laws in these times of peace? The people have no confidence in the present criminal administration and that administration has been condemned by natives and Englishmen alike. And instead of improving that administration, the authorities are going to make it worse by enacting a really terrible law. The consequences of this law will be deplorable in the extreme, it being notorious that in countries where the criminal law is very severe people are obliged to violate it. It is hoped that Lord Lansdowne will in this matter act with independence. The Bill ought to be published with the object of eliciting public criticism.

30. The *Sanjivani*, of the 21st January, says that a vigorous rule has been inaugurated in Bengal. Sir Charles Elliott has been taught a sound lesson in connection with the Municipal Bill and the Jury Notification, but it seems that he is not yet satisfied. For he seems bent on working fresh mischief. A most terrible section has been inserted in the Habitual Offenders Bill, and if that section is passed, there is no knowing but any gentleman may have to pass all his life under the strictest police surveillance.

Section 505 of the Criminal Procedure Code of 1872, which empowered the Magistrate to take surety for good conduct from any notoriously bad character, was repealed during Lord Ripon's administration; and it is now sought to re-enact it. The new Bill provides that any man whose free movements may be a cause for fear to the people at large will be compelled to give surety. But the Bill is silent as to what will constitute "cause for fear," and this makes the section dangerous in the extreme. Its application to those who have been punished for theft or dacoity will certainly lead to good, but its application on mere suspicion to men who have been never criminally punished will lead to great oppression of the people and be a great source of fear to them.

Another terrible section inserted in the Bill is to the effect that if the residents of any place are suspected to be thieves or dacoits, then the Magistrate, after proper enquiry and with the sanction of the Commissioner, may exact damages from those residents, with the exception only of those who will not incur such suspicion. The country has not for a long time heard of such a terrible law.

But Sir Charles Elliott is not content with these provisions, terrible as they are. He has requested the Government of India to make a provision in the Bill to the effect that any person on whom suspicion falls should be kept under police surveillance, that a register should be kept of the names of such suspected persons, that their houses should be regularly searched, and that their movements should be carefully watched. And even a *zubberdust* Civilian like Sir Philip Hutchins has been shocked by Sir Charles Elliott's proposal, and has expressed himself to the effect that a section on the line of Sir Charles' proposal will be horribly abused.

The section proposed by Sir Charles Elliott should never be allowed to pass into law. "We will not allow this section to be passed." An agitation ought to be set on foot in England in order to get the objectionable sections in the Bill expunged. Let the Bengalis beware, for this is a terrible time for them.

31. The same paper says that, in spite of Sir Charles Elliott's statement that he changed his opinion in regard to the Municipal Bill before receiving the Secretary of State's despatch on the subject, everybody sees that this sudden change of opinion has been due to the change of Ministry in England, and His Honour's statement has been therefore laughed away. The change of Ministry in England has also produced a change in the spirit of the Government of India, which has seen fit to materially alter the Land Acquisition Act Amendment Bill. It cannot be said after this that ministerial changes in England produce no effect on Indian affairs.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

32. The *Dainik o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 22nd January, does not at all like that Hindu ladies of rank should go about shopping at Osler's or Laidlaw's like the Maharani of Gwalior.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 21st, 1893.

SANJIVANI.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 22nd, 1893.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 21st, 1893.

33. Referring to the report of death from starvation communicated to the Death from starvation in the *Bankura Darpan* by the panchayet of Rampur in the Bankura district, the *Bangavasi*, of the 21st January, says that Lord Lytton stated in a public darbar that, if a single man died of starvation, the Sovereign was answerable for such death. But it is clear that Lord Lansdowne does not accept this view, for if he had, such a report would not now be found in the *Darpan*.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 21st, 1893.

34. The *Bangavasi*, of the 21st January, fully agrees with the *Pioneer* that The Lady Dufferin Hospital in Calcutta now that the Lady Dufferin Zanana Hospital in Calcutta has proved a failure owing to zanana ladies studiously keeping away from it, the hospital building should be sold and the proceeds utilized in some other way. The Zanana Hospital is the outcome of a movement which was started without duly gauging the conditions of native life. But it is not the Europeans who are so much to blame for the establishment of the Dufferin Hospital as the natives, who, though fully aware of the conditions of their own society, yet lavished money upon the project in response to the voice of flattery.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 24th, 1893.

35. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 24th January, refers to Sir Alexander Miller at the Alexander Miller's lecture on jury trial, and makes the following remarks:—

Sir Alexander began by saying that he did not mean to say anything on the present jury question; but it was not proper for him to discuss at such a time as this the merits of jury trial as an institution, and to find fault with it. As he has signed the jury despatch, people will think that his object in reading the paper was to make an indirect condemnation of jury trial, in view of the present agitation. Sir Comer Petheram did not do well in presiding on the occasion. And authorities of the Library too ought not to have requested the Law Member to deliver such a lecture on such an occasion.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 26th, 1893.

Accident to steamers at Saugor Island. 36. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 26th January, has the following:—

The *Hindu Patriot* has no doubt that five of the passengers on board the steamer which went to Saugor Island, and sank on the 17th instant, lost their lives in the accident. An enquiry has undoubtedly been made, but its result has not been made public, as it ought to be, considering the public anxiety in the matter.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

37. The same paper has heard that one man lost his life in the steamer accident which recently occurred in the Padma near Bhagyakul. But has any enquiry been made to ascertain whether or no more lives were lost? If an enquiry has been made, its result ought to be made known to the public.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
Dec. 22nd, 1892.

38. The *Samadvahika*, of the 22nd December, observes that the abolition of the latrine rate in the Balasore Municipality has given great relief to the rate-payers of the Balasore Municipality, and that the excitement caused by its unwise imposition and administration is fast dying out.

UTKAL DIPIKA,
Dec. 24th, 1892.

39. The *Utkal Dipika*, of the 24th December, draws the attention of the Collector of Cuttack to the strong feeling of discontent that prevails among the tenants of Kujang now under the administration of the Court of Wards in that district, and advises him to proceed thither and pay personal attention to the state of affairs in that place.

URIYA AND NAVA
SAMBAD,
Dec. 28th 1892.

40. A correspondent of the *Uriya and Navasamvad*, of the 28th December, points out that the presence of a photographer in the inner apartments of the Puri Jagannath Temple has given great offence to the worshippers of Jagannath, and that their feelings have been shocked by his telling people that he has been appointed by Government to take photographs of images and interesting objects within the sacred parts of the temple.

41. The *Utkal Dipika*, of the 31st December, is sorry to notice that the steamers plying through the Patamundai portion of the Orissa Coast Canal do not reach their destinations at the fixed hours, and thereby keep passengers waiting for hours together to their discomfort and inconvenience.

UTKAL DIPIKA,
Dec. 10th, 1892.

ASSAM PAPERS.

42. The *Paridarshak*, of the 16th January, says that Babu Ramlal Acharyya, Daroga of the Sylhet Jail, used to take the vegetables grown in the jail for personal consumption and without paying any pice. Prakas Babu told him some time ago not to do so; but he is continuing the practice, though it is not known whether he now pays for the vegetables.

PARIDARSHAK,
Jan. 16th, 1893.

43. The same paper complains of the indiscretion of Mr. Prothero, Director of Public Instruction, Assam, in putting questions to the teachers of the schools he visits and in rebuking them in the presence of their pupils. Mr. Prothero seems to be an irascible man, and has already come to the conclusion that the teachers in the Assam schools and colleges are all incompetent men.

PARIDARSHAK.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 28th January 1893.

